

# Settlement Sites

## Key words:

### Site

Situation

Wet point site

Dry point site

Building materials

Fuel supply

Food supply

Nodal point

Bridging point

Settlement patterns

Nucleated settlement

Cluster settlement

Transport routes

Sea ports

Protected bay

Natural beauty

Mineral resources

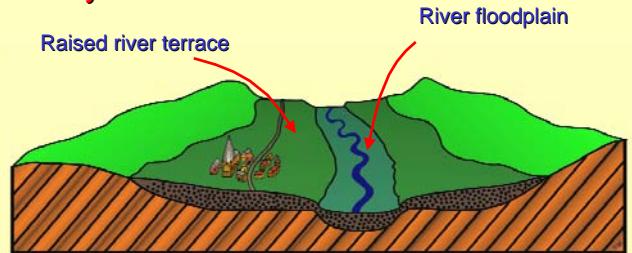
Valley

Fertile soils

Based on: Tom Abbott, Biddulph High School and made available through  
www.sln.org.uk/geography and only for non commercial use in schools

Example: Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire and A38

## Valley Site



Some settlements are located in a valley to obtain water from the river. The flat land (deposited silt) also provided fertile farmland. The flat land above the floodplain might provide an excellent transport route way.

## Gap Town

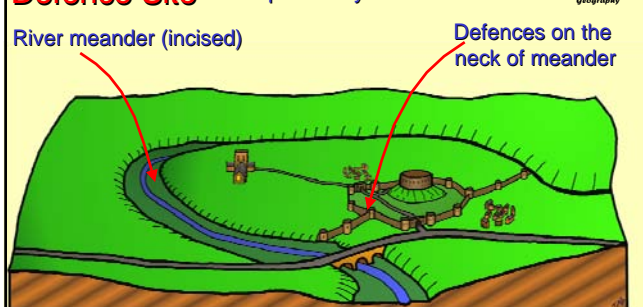
Example: Corfe, Isle of Purbeck



In places which provide an easy route through a ridge or highland villages were set up to take advantage of the trade and travellers. Highland can provide good defensive sites.

## Defence Site

Example: City of Durham



Early settlers needed to find places which were easily defended from attack. A good site was one which was surrounded by a river meander. The villagers would only have to build defences on one side at the neck of the meander.

## Dry Point Site

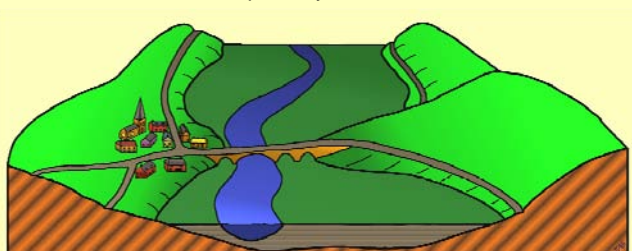
Example: Isle Ely (Fens), Cambridgeshire



In areas of the country where the landscape flooded regularly people sought locations which were normally drier. This might be on the edge of the wetland area or on islands of higher land.

## Bridging Point

Example: City of Oxford



Villages were sometimes built at places where it was easier to cross a valley floodplain. These places acted as nodal points, an attraction for travellers and traders.

***The place for a village?***  
**Settlement activity**  
**Three tasks**

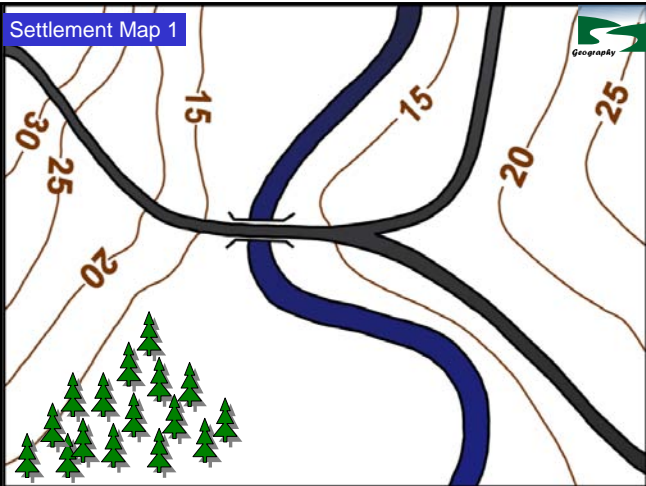
These three tasks  
need to be handed in.

**Task 1**

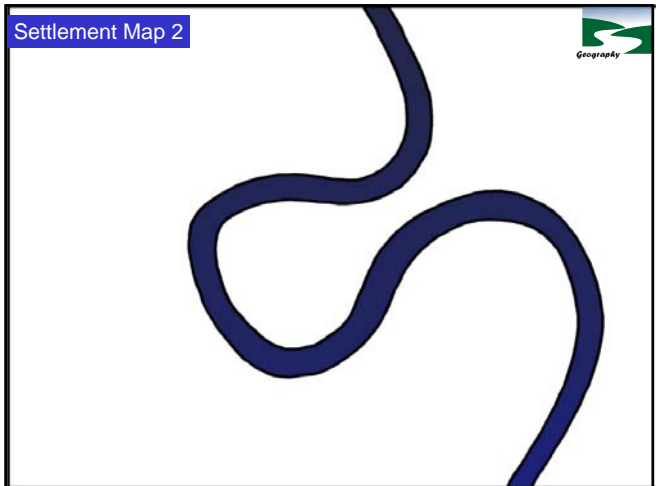
Settlement maps 1 – 5.  
Outline for each location:

1. Describe the site you have chosen
2. Describe the situation of your chosen site
3. Is it a wet-point/dry-point site? Why?
4. Fuel supply? (far / close by / hard to get to/ runs out easy?)
5. Food supply? (cattle / crops / river / forest / sea?)
6. Nodal point? (transport, valleys, rivers?)
7. Bridging point? (ford, bridge?)

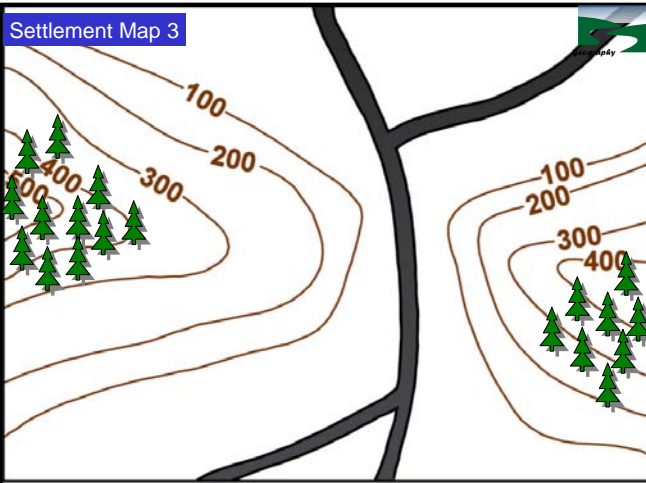
Settlement Map 1



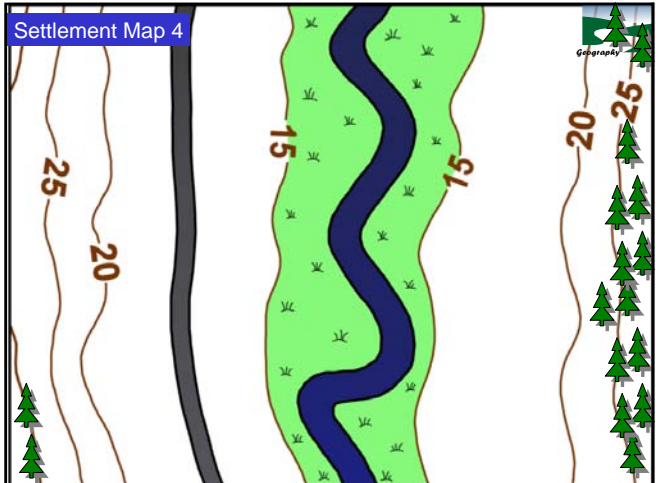
Settlement Map 2

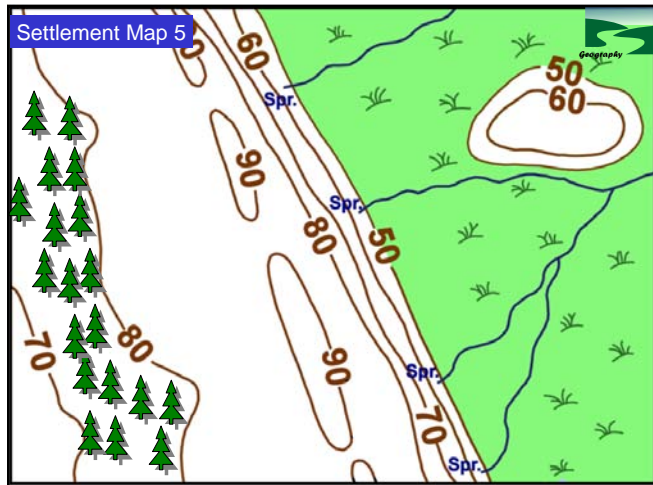


Settlement Map 3



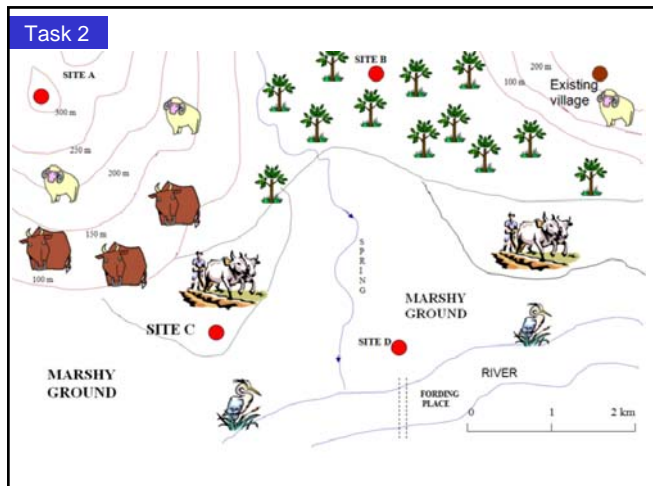
Settlement Map 4





## Task 2

Give 2 advantages  
and 2 disadvantages  
for each site: (A – D)



### Task 3

John Batman proclaimed in 1835: "This will be the place for a village". Using correct geographical terminology, describe the reasons why he would have decided that this was a good place for a settlement? (Minimum 100 words)

- Bridging point
- Building material
- Cluster settlement
- Dry point site
- Fertile soil
- Food supply
- Fuel supply
- Mineral resources
- Natural beauty
- Nodal point
- Nucleated settlement
- Protected bay
- Sea port
- Settlement pattern
- Site
- Situation
- Transport route
- Valley
- Wet point site

